

Power summer athletics from tomorrow

The second Power summer athletics competition, organised by the Bangladesh Amateur Athletics Federation (BAAF), will begin at 9:00 am tomorrow at the Banani Army Stadium, reports UNB.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Saad Hossain will inaugurate the three-day competition, which will be treated as a qualifying meet for the 6th SAF Games, scheduled for December 20-27.

This was disclosed by BAAF officials at a press conference at the National Sports Council conference room yesterday.

BAAF vice-president Abdul Wadud Chowdhury, general secretary Abdul Mannan, NSC director and BAAF member Faruqul Islam, and the sponsors' representatives — Data Shoe marketing chief K M S Alam and Power brand manager Ekramuzzaman — spoke on the occasion.

More than 200 athletes, including 65 women, from 20 teams have sent their entry to compete in the meet for top spots of the 35 events, including 13 for women.

Organisers expect that a few more athletes will join the competition today, the last day for entry.

A budget of Tk 2.75 lakh has been fixed for the meet. Bata Shoe Company, which is sponsoring the competition for the second successive time, will provide Tk 1.76 lakh in cash and kind.

The teams, which have so far confirmed their participation in the meet, are: Dhaka Division, Rajshahi Division, Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chittagong, Jhenidah, Rangpur, Faridpur, Manikganj, Noakhali, Natore and Magura DSAs, BTMC, BJMC, Customs, Ansars and VDP, Army, Navy, Air Force and Rajshahi University.

Replying to a question, BAAF officials informed the press that three national athletes Shahuddin Chowdhury, Shahjalal Mubin and Mehdi Hasan, who are yet to return home from America after participating in the World University Games, will miss the ensuing SAF Games if they fail to participate in this meet.

Four-a-side soccer

Sports Reporter

Blue posted an impressive victory in the inter-friends four-a-side football tournament over Black by two goals to nil at the Azampur ground yesterday.

Skipper Mukul netted both goals for the winners.

However, Zahurul Huq Tapan of Blue, with his brilliant passing and tackling, stole the show.

Pre-tournament favourites Red, led by Suman, take on Yellow in today's match at the same venue.

Maradona at the end of the road

BUENOS AIRES, July 26: Football star Diego Maradona's international career is over, Argentine coach Alfio Basile declared here on Sunday, reports AFP.

He said Maradona had ruled himself out of the national side, adding he was "an ex-player" and refusing to comment further on the veteran star.

Argentina take on Peru, Paraguay and Colombia in World Cup qualifying matches in August.

Yeboh, Pele lead Ghana home

MONROVIA, July 26: Ghana beat Liberia 2-0 here on Sunday to qualify for the African Nations Cup final, reports AFP.

European-based stars Anthony Yeboah and Abedi Pele scored a goal in each half to secure the Group Seven place.

Zaire run all over Lesotho

KINSHASA, July 26: Zaire beat Lesotho 7-0 on Sunday to Edge Kenya for a place in the finals of the African Nations Cup, reports AFP.

Both teams finished Group 4 with eight points but Zaire will make the trip to Tunisia next year thanks to a superior goal difference.

Zambia's fabulous flight continues

HARARE, July 26: Zambia, rebuilding after the loss of most of their soccer team in a plane crash last April, held Zimbabwe 1-1 on Sunday to reach next year's African Nations Cup final, reports Reuter.

Striker Kalusha Bwalya of Dutch club Psv Eindhoven scored the crucial equaliser 10 minutes from time after the home side had taken the lead through Henry McKop in the 27th minute.

The Zambians, ahead on points in Group Five, needed only a draw to qualify for the final in Tunisia.

Renascence of leagues today

Sports Reporter

Football gets rolling at the Dhaka Stadium once again from today. This year's twin leagues — ten-team Star Premier and Star First Division also comprising ten outfits — were earlier suspended on July 21 because of unplayable ground

are leading the points table of the Premier league with 12 points from seven matches. Abahani Krira Chakra, champions for the last two years and gunning for an unprecedented second hat-trick of Senior Division football league title, are in the second position having collected 11 points from seven matches.

ability play in Mohammedans next match against PWD on July 29. Mohammedans, according to a club official, had to pay six thousand dollars to the respective clubs of the two players as transfer fees. This is in addition to the salaries the two Russians would receive during their tenure in Bangladesh.



Oleg Jibodnikov (sitting from left) and Tagaev Murad, Mohammedans' two Russian recruits, are seen with officials Salam Murshedi (standing) and Tanveer Haider. The two footballers arrived yesterday. — Star photo

condition following an uninterrupted spell of monsoon showers.

Scheduled for a July 24 restart, the Senior Division football leagues suffered another natural setback as inclement weather continued, forcing the authorities to reset the resumption from today, July 27.

Dhaka Wanderers will play promotes Bangladesh Boys in the day's first match, a Star First Division encounter at 4-30 pm.

Arambagh Krira Sangstha and Muktdjodha Sangsad will engage in the Star Premier Division league encounter at 6-30 under the flood-lights.

Dhaka Wanderers have so far collected eight points from seven matches. Bangladesh Boys, who are going great guns in their first year in the big league, have bagged nine points from seven matches. They are strongly in the running for the two berths in the Premier league next year.

Arambagh, who finished fourth last year, have managed only four points from seven matches.

Muktdjodha, who gave a trial of strength in their league opener holding giants Mohammedans to a one-all draw, could not cling to the tempo in the subsequent matches and succeeded in managing seven points from as many outings.

Title aspirants Mohammedan Sporting Club

Fakirpool Youngmen's Club are at the top of the Star First Division points table with ten points from seven matches. Farashganj Sporting and newcomers Bangladesh Boys jointly hold the second position with nine points each having played seven matches apiece.

Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib is the leading scorer in the Star Premier league with ten goals to his credit including the only hat-trick so far which the Mohammedan striker scored against Rahmatganj.

Rumi Rizvi Karim, the Abahani skipper and a regular member of the national squad, has netted six goals while the dark and lanky Wari forward Mosharraf Hossain Tutul is the distant third in the scorers' list with a haul of four goals so far.

Jamal of Farashganj is the leading scorer in the Star First Division league with five goals followed by Mintu of Sadharan Bima, who as found the net four times so far. Askar Babu of Fakirpool, Liton of East End and Mintu of Bangladesh Boys have scored three goals each.

RUSSIAN DUO FOR MSC Meanwhile, two Russian players arrived in Dhaka yesterday to play for Mohammedan Sporting Club.

Twenty-six-year-old Tagaev Murad is learnt to be a midfielder while his compatriot 29-year-old Oleg Jibodnikov is primarily a striker capable of playing as an outside forward too.

The players will in all prob-

A former national player, now associated with Mohammedans as an official, hinted that the induction of the two foreigners will not cause any change in the Mohammedan front line comprising veteran Aslam, Shabbir and Nakib.

Although local players in the Mohammedan upfront need not worry over the arrival of the Russian midfielders, Saiful Bari Titu, Mahburur Rahman Rony and Arman should not be unjustified in entertaining misgivings about their future in the rest of the matches which include a few of the first league and the whole of the return league.

POINTS TABLE

Premier Division League:									
	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts		
Mohammedans	7	5	2	0	20	6	12		
Abahani	7	4	3	0	17	4	11		
Brothers	7	3	3	1	12	5	9		
Wari	8	3	3	2	11	6	9		
PWD	7	2	4	1	8	6	8		
Muktdjodha	7	1	5	1	6	7	7		
Agnani Bank	8	1	5	2	8	7	7		
Victoria	8	1	3	4	14	5	7		
Arambagh	7	1	2	4	6	15	4		
Rahmatganj	8	0	2	6	5	17	2		
First Division League:									
	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts		
Fakirpool	7	3	4	0	8	3	10		
Farashganj	7	2	5	0	8	4	9		
Bangladesh Boys	7	3	3	1	8	6	9		
East End	7	2	4	1	8	7	8		
Wanderers	7	2	4	1	5	4	8		
Dharmodi	7	1	6	0	9	7	8		
Ekaton SS	8	2	3	3	6	5	7		
Sadharan Bima	8	2	3	3	10	11	7		
BRTC	8	1	4	3	7	11	6		
Adanjee	8	0	2	6	4	14	2		

Tapie gives Bernes a choice

PARIS, July 26: Marseille president Bernard Tapie, undaunted by scandal surrounding the champions over match fixing allegations, says club general secretary Jean-Pierre Bernes will get his job back if his name is cleared, reports Reuter.

Bernes, at the centre of the scandal and under judicial investigation for corruption resigned at the weekend.

"If the proceedings show his innocence, as I hope, he will resume his duties," Tapie said in an interview with Liberation newspaper published on Monday.

Tapie said Bernes, released from custody last Thursday after being held for two weeks, resigned because he did not want the club held hostage to the current inquiry into allegations it fixed a May 20 league match with Valenciennes.

Three Valenciennes players have said they were offered money to play poorly, and named Bernes as the contact man. A Marseille player, Jean-

Jacques Eydelic, has admitted involvement and also named Bernes as the man behind the scheme. Bernes has denied any involvement.

The President of the French football league, Noel le Great, meanwhile, suggested Bernes should leave soccer for good.

"It's logical that he resigned," he told France-Info radio. "At the age of 36, it's possible to change career... I'm pretty happy he's leaving football."

Le Great was critical of Bernes for making a lap of honour at Marseille as the league kicked off on Saturday. Marseille beat lens 1-0 as they

Arsenal gun M United down

JOHANNESBURG, July 26: Arsenal beat English Premier League compatriots Manchester United 2-0 (half-time 2-0) in the opening match of a four-team soccer tournament on Sunday, reports Reuter.

SCORERS: Ian Wright (penalties, 10th and 26th minutes).



Organisers and sponsors of the second Power summer athletics are seen during yesterday's press conference held at the conference room of the National Sports Council. — Star photo

Mushtaq wins his spurs

TAUNTON, England, July 26: Pakistan leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed has been awarded his county cap by Somerset following an impressive first season in English cricket, reports AFP.

The 23-year-old has taken 10 wickets or more in a match three times on his way to a total of 46 first-class wickets this season.

England eves barely make it

FINCHAMPSTEAD, England, July 26: England kept their hopes of reaching the women's World Cup cricket final alive by beating India in a thrilling last-ball finish here on Sunday, reports AFP.

India, on 176 and chasing 179, needed three off the last ball but their last batsman was run out.

England were inspired by a century from opener Jan Brittin, while left-arm spinner Diana Edulji took four for 12 runs for India.

England now have to beat Australia at Guildford on Monday to progress in the tournament.

Australia easily brushed aside Ireland, Zoe Goss scoring 69 and Lyn Larsen 62 as they made 194 for eight. Ireland could only reach 145 for four in reply.

At Lindfield New Zealand beat Holland by ten wickets after bowling them out for 40. Jennifer Turner taking five for five. They overtook that score in just 13.2 overs.

Gelfand leads in Bienne chess

BIENNE, Switzerland, July 26: Boris Gelfand of Belarus was in sole possession of the first place Monday entering the 10th round of the Bienne International Grandmasters Tournament, reports AP.

Gelfand defeated Evgeny Bareev of Russia on Sunday to move ahead of the field. Trailing a half point behind were Michael Adams of Britain and Gata Kamsky of the United States.

Kamsky beat Leonid Yudasin of Israel, and Adams drew Valery Salov of Russia, who had been leading but was a full point behind Gelfand on Monday.

CONCACAF gold Cup Mexico's

MEXICO CITY, July 26: Mexico demolished the United States 4-0 in a masterly display of flair and imagination on Sunday to win the CONCACAF Gold Cup in Mexico City, reports Reuter.

The Mexicans, cheered on by a fiercely partisan capacity crowd of 120,000 in Azteca Stadium, snatched the initiative from the US team from the whistle and dominated play throughout.

Ignacio Ambriz put the home side one up in the 11th minute, sending a 35-year free-kick past the US wall into the far corner of the net and leaving keeper Tony Meola floundering.

Desmond Armstrong put the ball through his own goal in the 30th minute under pressure from rampaging winger Ramon Ramirez to make it 2-0.

Luis Alves Zaguey made it 3-0 in the 69th minute, chesting down a Ramirez cross and slotting the ball under Meola at the edge of the goal area.

Guillermo Cantu completed the rout in the 79th, latching on to a deft flick from Jose Noriega to blast home from close range.

Rough Uruguayans scrape home

SAN CRISTOBAL, Venezuela, July 26: Rough tackling Uruguay scraped a 1-0 win on Sunday in a World Cup qualifier against South American minnows Venezuela, who were left to count their bumps and bruises, reports Reuter.

Uruguay had star strikers Rube Sosa, Daniel Fonseca and Enzo Francescoli back in the side after patching up a long-standing row with coach Luis Cubilla.

But their only goal came with a thundering shot by full-back Jose Herrera in the 59th minute and it was the negative side of their game which caught the attention.

Uruguay displayed all their old tricks, including elbows in the face and vicious tackles from behind in the South American Group B match.

Venezuela's team doctor worked overtime as he attended numerous injured players on the touchline after rough Uruguayan challenges.

But only Hector Moran, Santiago Ostolaza and Daniel Fonseca were booked by Colombian referee Jose Torres. Sosa, Fonseca and Francescoli were all disappointing and most of the skill came from the unheralded Venezuelans.

Venezuela, with Belgian-based striker Stalin Rivas back after suspension, were unrecognisable from the team humiliated 7-1 by Bolivia the week before and deserved a draw.

Indo-Lankan 2nd Test begins today

India hinge on 3 musketeers

COLOMBO, July 26: India have brought back left-arm spinner Venkatapathy Raju into a 13-man squad for the second Test against Sri Lanka at the Singhaia Sports Club (SSC) grounds to start here Tuesday, reports AFP.

The squad announced here Monday also includes two other slow bowlers, leg-spinner Anil Kumble and off-spinner Rajesh Chauhan, both of whom played vital roles in helping India win a thrilling one-day international Sunday.

The three spinners fashioned India's 3-0 home series triumph over England earlier in the year, but the left-armed Raju was dropped from the first Test side last week to make way for pacesman Jagavallu Srinath.

Regular wicket-keeper Kiran More also comes back to the Indian side to take the place of his understudy Vijay Yadav who was given the stumper's job on Sunday.

Indian manager Ajith Wadekar expressed satisfaction with the last SSC wicket and said the team would be named on the morning of the match.

Sri Lanka registered their first Test wins over New Zealand and England at the SSC which is known for its excellent batting strip.

Despite Sri Lanka's dra-

matic batting collapse that saw India winning the one-dayer by one run, Sri Lankan skipper Arjuna Ranatunga was confident that his side would perform well in the Test.

"The batsmen were to blame (in the one-dayer). But we are confident and will go flat out to win the Test. We will play positive batting," said Ranatunga who himself failed to produce a captain's knock on Sunday scoring only two runs.

The Sri Lankan selectors were contemplating on including a third pacesman or an extra all-rounder but have not been able to make up their minds so far since such a decision could cost specialist off-spinner Muttiah Muralidharan's place.

Ranatunga on Monday said

that one-day opening bowler Pramodaya Wickramasinghe or all-rounder Ruwan Kalpage would be considered for selection to the final Eleven if Muralidharan was to be dropped.

Muralidharan and the other off-spinner Jayasundera Warnawera were the match-winners in Sri Lanka's wins over New Zealand in December and England in March.

Both were in the first Test team together with seamers Champaka Ramanayake and Dulip Liyanage.

Opening batsman Chandika Hathurusinghe is expected to play after recovering from a severe cramp he sustained during a brave innings of 64 in the one-day international.

Sri Lanka will pick their team later Monday from a 15-man squad that was named on the eve of the first Test.

TEAMS

INDIA: M Azharuddin (capt), M Prabhakar, N S Sidhu, V G Kambli, S R Tendulkar, P K Amre, K Dev, K More, A Kumble, V Raju, C Chauhan, J Srinath, S Ankola.

SRI LANKA: A Ranatunga (capt), R S Mahanama, U C Hathurusinghe, A P Gurusinha, P A de Silva, H P Tillekeratne, A M de Silva, P Wickramasinghe, K P J Warnawera, C P Ramanayake, D Liyanage, R S Kalpage, M Muralidharan, S T Jayasuriya, P Wijetunga.

Bolivia stifle samba beat

LA PAZ, July 26: Bolivia scored twice in the last two minutes to beat Brazil 2-0 on Sunday and condemn the former world champions to their first-ever defeat in a World Cup soccer qualifying match, reports Reuter.

Midfielder Marco Etcheverry gave Bolivia the lead in the 68th minute, helped by a horrendous mistake by Brazil goalkeeper Taffarel, in a south America Group B match.

Etcheverry ran to the Brazilian byline and sent over a seemingly harmless, weak cross from the left. But Taffarel, under no pressure, deflected the ball into his own net.

One minute later, Bolivian substitute Alvaro Pena ran through a demoralised Brazilian defence and scored with an angled shot which went through Taffarel's legs.

Just nine minutes earlier, Taffarel had been the Brazilian hero when he saved a penalty attempt by Erwin "Platini" Sanchez with his legs.

The result left Brazil in a difficult situation in Group B, having drawn 0-0 away to Ecuador in their first match last week. Bolivia, who routed Venezuela, 7-1 in Puerto Ordaz last Sunday, lead the group with a

maximum four points from two games.

But with two teams qualifying for the 1994 finals from the group and with four home games to come, Brazil still have reasonable chances of going through.

The Brazilians clearly felt the effects of playing in the thin air of La Paz, 3,700 metres above sea level. They brought 10 oxygen masks to refuel the players at halftime.

But, until the dramatic last 10 minutes, it seemed the Bolivian attack lacked the organisation and composure to threaten Taffarel seriously.

It was an often unpleasant match, littered with bad fouls and arguments and poorly controlled by a tolerant referee, Juan Escobar of Paraguay.

Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira made three changes from the Ecuador game.

Full backs Jorginho and Branco were replaced by Cafu and Leonardo, while much-criticised forward Careca lost his place to Sao Paulo striker Muller.

Muller had Brazil's best first half chance in the 37th minute when the ball ran loose on the edge of the Bolivian penalty area and he blasted a first-time shot wide of the right post.

Otherwise, Brazil concentrated on keeping possession

Intercontinental Cup goes to FRG

VILLANOVA, Pa, July 26: Franziska Hentschel scored a pair of goals and goalkeeper Bianca Weiss blocked a penalty stroke by Maria Castelli with 18 minutes remaining to give Germany a 2-1 victory over Argentina on Sunday and the Intercontinental Cup field hockey title, reports AP.

Vanana Oneto gave Argen-

tina the lead with her fifth goal of the tournament in the opening minute. But Hentschel converted a penalty corner nine minutes later and added the game winner from close range in the 46th minute.

Germany finished the tournament undefeated with a 4-3-0 record and handed the Argentines (5-1-1) their first loss.

Earlier Sunday, Rochelle Low scored on a corner shot in

the 46th minute, her tournament leading seventh goal, as Canada beat Russia 1-0, for third place.

In other games, Japan won ninth place Sunday by defeating Belgium 2-1 and Italy finished in 11th place with a 1-0 victory over France.

The 11-day tournament served as a qualifying event for the 12-nation World Cup next year in Dublin, Ireland.

The top five teams from the intercontinental Cup qualified for the World Cup: Germany, Argentina, Russia, Canada and the United States, who bet Scotland on penalty strokes on Saturday to win the final spot.

In the earlier games, Masami Nishimoto scored in the seventh minute and Akemi Kato converted a penalty corner in the 64th minute for Japan.

Belgium scored in the last few seconds on a shot by Carole Dembour.

Italy claimed victory on Elena Mazzoleni's goal in the 22nd minute.

Algeria move up

ALGIERS, July 26: Algeria moved into the final stage of the African Nations Cup in style on Sunday, trouncing Senegal 4-0, reports AFP.

The Algerians qualify alongside Sierra Leone from Group 3 for the finals next March in Tunisia.

Jamaica draw with Costa Rica

MEXICO CITY, July 26: Costa Rica and Jamaica drew